



## **Lewis and Clark County Behavioral Health Local Advisory Council**

### **Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 2, 2020, 11:30 a.m.**

**Mission Statement:** The purpose of the LAC is to assist in the improvement of Lewis and Clark County public behavioral health services and to review and make recommendations about services to the Lewis and Clark County Commissioners.

**Purpose:** A time to learn and share

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Call to Order and Attendance**

Matt Furlong called the meeting to order at 11:33 am. He announced the recent hire of Jolene Jennings for the Behavioral Health Systems Improvement Specialist position. Jolene will be starting on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Members in Attendance: Matt Furlong (Chair), Jess Hegstrom, Andy Hunthausen, Dennis Nyland, Jennifer Preble, Lt. Cory Bailey, Gary Mihelish, Sean Logan, Brandy Vail, Kim Gardner, Eric Griffin,

Guest in Attendance: Jadin Van Steenvort, Rebecca Hargis, Theresa Ortega, Aaron Edwards, Jillian DeAmicis- Danesi, Adrian Sagan, Emily McVey, Robin Suzor, Rena Steyaert, Michelle Marshell,

Staff in Attendance: Vee Yang

## **1. COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) Update – Jenn Preble**

Jenn Preble gave a quick overview of the C.O.A.D. meeting every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. They have subgroups covering childcare, mental health, behavioral health, economic recovery, food share, food distribution and transportation. Some groups are winding down as the county is entering into phase two of reopening the state. On the behavioral health side, they are still remarkably busy as they identify the needs coming forward and preparing for another response to Covid and addressing the needs of disaster planning for fire and floods. With the partnership between the county suicide prevention coordinator, Jess Hegstrom, and the Awareness Network virtual QPR trainings are open to the public for free. Lewis and Clark United Way have pushed these efforts and opportunities forward to their volunteers, as well as professionals in the behavioral health fields. They are also trying to do compassion fatigue trainings for the behavioral health professions so that we can keep the people we have because we do have a workforce shortage here in Helena. Matt also mentioned the shortage of childcare providers because so many childcare providers are not returning this summer. Frontline and essential workers still need childcares so finding how we can close the gaps for those in the workforce during this challenging time.

## **2. CRT (Crisis Response Team) Update**

Jillian DeAmics-Danesi updated us that on June 9<sup>th</sup> the St. Peters CRT proposal will be reviewed by the county. A representative from the LAC will be present during the review. More updates will be available during the next meeting in July. Kim Gardner mentioned that some children are not referred to mental health services by CRT or given mental health evaluations. This is a concern that needs addressed in our community. Children should not be dismissed by providers as just having behavioral issues when there can be underlying mental health issues. Matt committed to bringing this up in the upcoming team meeting for CRT. Gary Mihelish was able to comment that the county commissioners approved the Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health Systems Improvement Project charter presented by Drenda Nieman. It is a four-page document on the plans going forward. The leadership team is made up of St. Peters Health, Purview Health Center, Lewis and Clark Public Health, Lewis and

Clark Sheriff's office, and Lewis and Clark County Commission. There are five workgroups all of which will agree on operating principles and decision-making structures. There are to be 5 work groups: data collection and data sharing, community outreach and communication, gaps in services, universal screening and referral protocol, and funding. Kim Gardner mentioned concerns about paying a ten-thousand-dollar membership fee. Gary Mihelich said that this process has been in progress for 2 years. It started with a small group to start and now is expanding to a larger group. The first groups agreed to put the ten thousand dollars into the charter but still want and need to hear from the voices of our community. Andy Hunthausen verified that the charter is not asking for the ten-thousand-dollar charter fee. Growing the group is not about increasing the charter fund but to include the LAC and other community stakeholders are invited and included into the conversations and plans. Jillian clarified that the CRT review team and the new charter team are separate.

### **3. AMDD Request for Feedback**

Matt explained that Addiction and Mental Disorder Division have 1.25 million dollars to put forward to potential services that have been recognized by local advisory councils, service area authorities, stakeholders based on the impact of Covid-19. There is a recommendation of 9 points going out on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup>. Jenn Preble mentioned that there were parallel efforts from AMDD and Lewis and Clark County. She suggested collaborating between both groups to make the recommendations to eliminate duplicated work and to be able to get feedback on the recommendations before turning them in to AMDD and the county.

### **4. Service Provider Updates**

Kim Gardner from Intermountain announced that they have openings for medication management and psychiatry. There are openings for children and adolescent family case management, as well as opening in the outpatient and cooccurring department as well. School based services in Helena will start soon. Other communities have already started their school-based services and have arranged social distancing and safety care. In Helena they will continue using telehealth until after June 30<sup>th</sup> per the school board's recommendation.

Jenn Preble from Center for Mental Health spoke about a new initiative that is out for public comment. The initiative is from AMDD for instituting a tiered PACT (program for assertive community treatment) program. Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana has worked on and supported the initiative. There is a public hearing that is available on the Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana website.

Michelle Marshall updated the group that there are openings at Shodair and that several of their units are open.

Jess Hegstrom announced that there will be 3 more online trainings in June date are to be announced. Military Strong is also up and running and includes an added suicide prevention training. The Military Strong training is free to take part in. There are 5 modules that total 90 minutes. Youth Mental First Aid should be returning during June.

## **5. Public Comment**

Matt Furlong asked if there were any last-minute updates or public comments. There were no responses.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.**

**Next meeting July 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.**